

Utah County Employee of the Month - July 2012
Paul Wake - Attorney IV, Criminal Division
Utah County Attorneys Office

Paul Wake is an attorney in the County Attorney's Office. Paul is coming up on his 15th year anniversary with Utah County. He has worked in both the civil and criminal divisions of the County Attorney's Office. Currently Paul is assigned as a prosecutor in juvenile court. Paul is doing an incredible job in this position. Paul handles arraignments, pretrial hearings, trials, dispositional hearings, suppression hearings, restitution hearings, review hearings and just about anything else in the juvenile court. Paul's position requires him to interact with the citizens of Utah County, police officers, probation officers, and defense attorneys. He represents Utah County in a professional manner. I have been most impressed with Paul and his interactions with victims and members of the community. He is a wonderful representative of the County Attorney's Office. That being said, I know Commissioner Anderson, former defense attorney, may remember a time or two when Paul was a thorn in his side. I think this is one of Paul's strengths. He is not a push over and he fights for justice. Admirable qualities for a prosecutor.

Currently Paul is assigned a tremendous caseload. He never complains and is one of the hardest working attorneys I know. Paul is one of three juvenile court prosecutors. By sheer luck of the draw Paul has handled the most serious juvenile cases. He has had more Serious Youth Offender cases than the other two attorneys combined. I can not think of another juvenile prosecutor who is more qualified to handle these most serious of cases. He does an amazing job of amassing evidence, evaluating it, and making tough decisions. Paul is also currently handling a juvenile certification case where a juvenile has been charged with manslaughter in the deaths of a husband and wife on University avenue. This is a very rare and technical case. Utah County can have the utmost confidence that we have one of our best assigned to this difficult case. Paul is our resident expert on juvenile law. He is the most versed attorney in juvenile procedure, case law and the juvenile rules. In fact he serves on the state's juvenile court rules committee. Paul's colleagues in the office have commented to me about his wealth of knowledge and how he is always willing to assist other attorneys in juvenile court practice. They have also mentioned and I personally can attest that Paul is always willing to cover cases for other attorneys who need coverage for their cases. It is this "can do" attitude that makes Paul such an asset.

Paul also attends meeting with school resource officers; participates in court unity training's and performs such training's as well; he is a member of the sex crimes task force; he has written an incredibly informative article for the County Attorney newsletter; he has created a manual for juvenile court prosecution; and he has served as a mock trial judge for the junior high and high school mock trial competitions.

Finally, Paul has a great sense of humor. In his most recent job evaluation Paul lists one of his contributions to the office as: "He is being extra civil". Quality humor if you know Paul. Thanks Paul for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Submitted by: Chris Yannelli, Deputy County Attorney, Paul's colleague and supervisor